expanded the Scheme twice in the year 2005-06 and 2006-07. With these expansions, the total number of ICDS Projects, Anganwadi Centres and Mini-Anganwadi Centres has increased to 6284, 10.53 lakhs and 36829 respectively.

To cover the, hitherto, uncovered habitations across the country, the proposal for 792 additional Projects, 2.13 lakh Anganwadi Centres and 77053 Mini-Anganwadi Centres under 3rd Phase expansion is underway.

(b) Government is fully conscious of the efforts put in by these honorary workers and therefore continuous efforts have been made to improve their working conditions by increase in their honoraria from time to time and extending facilities such as paid absence on maternity, insurance cover under the Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana, reservation of 25% of vacant posts of Supervisors for Anganwadi Workers, recruitment of 25% Anganwadi Workers from Anganwadi Helpers etc.

World Bank sponsored projects under ICDS

1078. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests from the State Governments to sanction the World Bank sponsored projects under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that these proposals are pending with Government for a long time;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in according sanction by Government; and

(e) by when final decision is likely to be taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATTRENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has received requests from a few States such as Orissa and Tamil Nadu for their inclusion in the proposed World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)-IV Project. On the basis of a study conducted by the World Bank *viz.* 'Mapping and Profile of "Target" districts-India ICDS Program' for identification of "Highest ICDS Need Districts" and best practices experience of the States. 8 States have been identified for coverage under the proposed Project.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Special Courts for trial of offences against women

1079. SHRI T.T. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken up the matter regarding setting up of special courts to try offences against women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?